

*THERA CUPRESSATA* GEYER: A SPECIES OF  
GEOMETRID MOTH NEW TO THE  
CHANNEL ISLANDS

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Two males of this species were taken at mercury vapour light on the nights of 17th and 19th October, 1985 respectively at St. Peter's, Guernsey.

Abroad *T. cupressata* is known from Southern Europe and the Mediterranean and Atlantic coasts of France. The foodplants listed by various authors are *Cupressus* and *Juniper* and the larvae are found from May until August. The adult flies in the autumn and is thought to hibernate. There is no naturally occurring *Juniper* on Guernsey but various species and cultivars of *Cupressus* are widely grown, especially *X. Cupressocyparis leylandii*. *T. cupressata* is not a known migrant and with the exception of two specimens of *Mythimna unipuncta* and one of *Mythimna loreyi* no known migrants were seen around the time of capture. The weather was mild with minimum night temperatures of 10 degrees Celsius and variable but mainly easterly winds of Force 2.

The adult moth is similar in appearance to *T. juniperata* which is not found on Guernsey, but is easily distinguished from it by the conspicuous black markings on the dorsum and the long apical streak which crosses two thirds of the forewing.

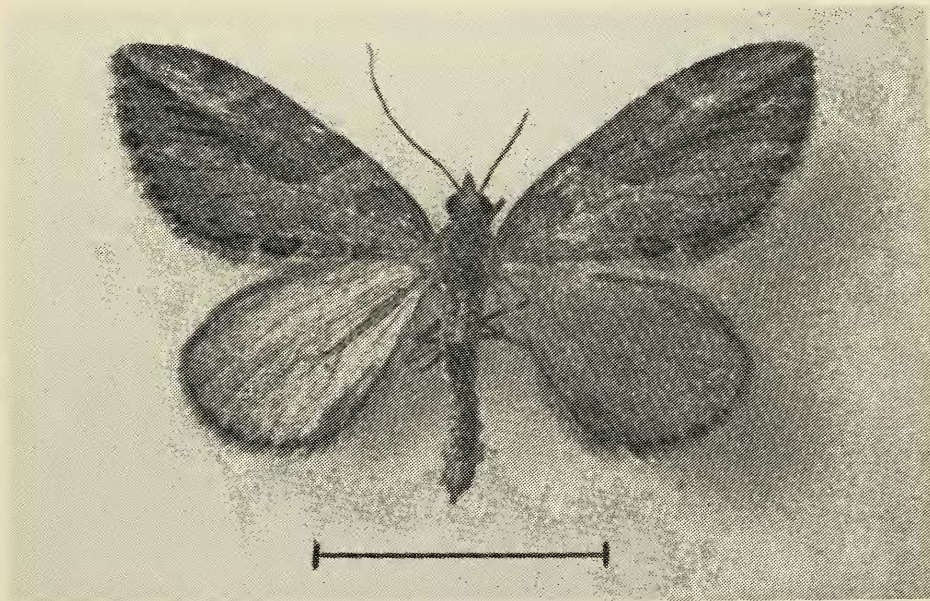


Fig. 1 *Thera cupressata* Geyer. Scale bar = 1 cm.

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In recent years other *Cupressus* feeding moths have been recorded on Guernsey, *Eupithecia phoeniceata* was first recorded in 1959 and is now common, and *Lithophane leautieri hesperica* which was first noted in 1971 is similarly frequently seen. Whether or not Channel Island insects are British and therefore whether *T. cupressata* can now be added to the list of British moths is a matter for discussion but we noted with interest that the recent discovery of *Eupithecia ultimaria* on Guernsey was described as an addition to the British list.

### Acknowledgements

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### References

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**Note:** A further two specimens of *cupressata* were taken at the same site on the nights of 10th and 11th July 1986. P.D.M.C.

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DAMAGE TO BLUEBERRY (*VACCINIUM CORYMBOSUM*) BY *CACOECIMORHA PRONUBANA* (HÜBNER) — On 20th May, 1986 tortricid larvae was found on various cultivars of highbush blueberry in a plantation at East Malling Research Station, where they had caused extensive damage to young shoots, leaves and flowers. Most of the larvae were almost fully-grown and most had constructed shelters from dead flowers or leaves webbed to the shoots. Ten larvae were collected and reared through to adult; all proved to be *Cacoecimorpha pronubana* (Hubner), which is known to be polyphagous. M. A. EASTERBROOKE, East Malling Research Station, nr. Maidstone, Kent.